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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO.

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY U SR (Moscow Oblast)

DATE DISTR. 22 Nov. 1950

SUBJECT Optical Plant No. 393 in Krasnogorsk

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Spring of 1944 to June 1945 and June 1948 to January 1949

1. Location:

At eastern edge of KRASNOGORSK (37°32'E/55°49'N) Moscow Oblast

2. Factory name: Plant No. 393

3. Plant history:

a. This factory was said to produce airplanes until the beginning of the war. It was seriously damaged in 1944 but the machines and other installations had been removed before. Soviet civilians stated that the whole factory had been transferred to NOVOSIBIRSK.

b. In June 1948 the Zeiss-Ikon-Werk had been transferred from JENA to the reconstructed factory premises. The machinery of the factory was increased by the stocks obtained from the stocks of the Zeiss-Ikon-Werk. A large part of these German machines had become unserviceable, especially boring machines, milling machines, punching machines, work benches and electric motors (about 400 to 500 machines, estimated by source). Part of the machines had been thrown from the railroad cars and were lying or standing about in the open air exposed to the weather. Component parts of the machinery were continuously stripped. Thus the future utilization of the machines seems out of the question. It was learned from one of the German engineers that all these machines would probably be unserviceable after five or six years as they had been seriously damaged during their transport and had also been over-strained and inexpertly treated by the Soviets. Soviet engineers, however, were said to test and copy the various types.

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4. German engineers and technicians: About 100 to 120 at the factory.
5. Production: As far as could be stated:
Photo cameras of various descriptions
Aerial cameras for planes
Binoculars of various descriptions
Almost any kind of optical instruments.

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July 1948 to March 1949

6. Name of the plant: Plant No. 393

7. Plant history:

New construction during the time of observation.
The Zeiss-Werk at KRASNOGORSK was rebuilt and production started by March 1949. German PWs were not admitted to the factory after 1 March 1949. The German engineers remained in the factory.

8. Labor force:

About 5,000 civilian Soviet workers and 120 German engineers. Nearly every day source saw Soviet (mainly AF) officers on the grounds of factory.

9. Machinery: 80 percent of the machinery came from the Zeiss-Werke, JENA.

10. Raw material:

The raw material arrived by rail. Steel rods of every length (diameters up to 100 mm), captured goods, yellow brass as reparation goods from HEMMINGSDORF (?), or the Mansfeld district. Yellow brass sheets 0.4 to 12 mm thick, sheet dimensions 0.6x1.2 m and 1.0x2.0 m. Also, yellow brass wire coils and aluminum in sheets. This raw material had come from Germany.

11. Production:

a. Reflectors for searchlights were rolled from aluminum sheets in the smithy. The diameters of the reflectors were about 60 to 80 cm. At this workshop the reflectors got their reflecting layers.

b. Leica photo cameras. There was much waste which had to be thrown away. Soviet workers said that Leica cameras were sold to the MOSCOW population for 800 rubles. One railroad car (13 tons) left the plant each week, allegedly loaded with Leica cameras.

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[REDACTED] January 1949

12. Relatives of a German graduate optician (formerly a managing employee of the Zeiss firm) living at HALLS were first told by repatriated PWs that eight German opticians, who had been working at the optical factory in KRASNOGORSK had been transferred to the optical works in MOLOTOV.

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[REDACTED] Comment:

1. Detailed information on the PAVSHINO optical factory near KRASNOGORSK was contained in a previous report. This factory had already been referred to as Plant No. 393.
2. The present report confirms, on the whole, the previous statements, but gives no clue to the development of new instruments.
3. An optical factory in MOLOTOV is not known. Perhaps it is the former MOLOTOV Plant No. 470 which produced flying instruments, as stated in para III.

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